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ORGANIZATION AND IMPORTANT OFFICERS
OF THE BULGARIAN NATIONAL MILITIA, APRIL 1950

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The political commissar of the Militia Section for Sofia and Vicinity is Maj Slavcem [Slavcho?] Dimitriev, also a prewar Communist. He participated in [several words apparently omitted from the original] showed himself to be a real murderer of the Serbs.

In this section there are 28 additional officers and about 50 noncommissioned officers. A large number of these officers were sent to take courses given for the militia by high Soviet officer specialists in the Soviet Union or Bulgaria.

This section is located in Sofia on Moskovska Ulitsa, which is also the location of the central prison of the National Militia. The section consists of the following units:

a. One battalion of cavalry, commanded by Captain Stoykov (?). This battalion consists of three troops, which are stationed throughout Sofia. One troop is stationed in barracks on Ulitsa Sofronovski. The other two battalions [sic] are stationed in large barracks on Boulevard Slivnitsa. Each troop consists of 100 men. The soldiers are armed with rifles, sabers, and pistols. One troop is also armed with light automatic weapons.

b. Twelve militia stations. As is known, Sofia is divided into 12 districts. Each of these districts has its commissariat; the chief of each commissariat is a militia officer. At each commissariat there are six agents of the political police to check on the inhabitants of the district. In addition to these agents, there are 25 militiamen in each district, armed with rifles, pistols, and light and heavy machine guns.

c. One company of traffic police. This company consists of 150 women, who are used for maintaining communications in Sofia. They are armed with pistols and light automatic weapons (short Soviet automatic rifles). They are billeted in the large police barracks on Boulevard Slivnitsa.

d. One tank company. This company is equipped with ten tanks of German origin which were left behind after the surrender of the German forces in Bulgarian territory. These tanks are used in emergencies. They are frequently seen being paraded through the streets of Sofia.

Militia Section for Internal Affairs

The chief of the Militia Section for Internal Affairs is Col Boris Churvenchev [Tsurventsev?], a former corporal in the prewar Bulgarian Army. He has been a member of the Communist Party since before the war. During the war he was one of the best couriers and links between the Yugoslav and Bulgarian Communists. He was with the units of the Bulgarian occupation forces in Nis.

The Section for Internal Affairs is located in Sofia, in the same building as the Main Administration of the militia. The following nine regional sections are subordinate to the Section for Internal Affairs: Burgas, Gorna Dzhumaya [now Blagoevgrad], Plovdiv, Ruse, Stara Zagora, Shumen [now Kolarovgrad], Varna [now Stalin], Vratsa, and Bosilegrad.

The chiefs of these regional sections are officers, most of whom have the rank of Captain First Class. These sections have under their command a certain number of militiamen equipped with armored cars, cavalry, motor vehicles, and heavy and light automatic weapons. Each of these sections has its independent depot from which it is supplied. These depots are supplied from a central depot in Sofia.

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There are smaller stations subordinated to these regional sections of the National Militia.

Schools of the National Militia

The Bulgarian National Militia has the following three schools:

1. The school for officers of the National Militia is in Sofia, and is under the command of Colonel Smoltsev [Smolchev]. The course lasts for one year. Each candidate must have completed the eighth class of Gymnasium, and must have served his year of military service or possibly have held the position of deputy chief of a district. The instructors in this school are Bulgarian officers. There are now 80 students taking the course.
2. The school for noncommissioned officers of the National Militia is in the vicinity of Sofia. The commander of the school is a militia major. The course lasts for 6 months. There are between 100 and 150 students in each course. Each candidate must have a certificate of completion of elementary school, must have served in the militia for at least 3 years, and must never have been punished. He should be a member of the Communist Party if possible.
3. The school for candidates of the National Militia is in Sofia on Boulevard Dundukov. The commander of the school is a captain or a major. The course lasts from 3 to 5 months. The instructors are militia officers. There are at least 200 students in each course. Each candidate must have completed elementary school, must have served his year of regular service, and must desire to be a member of the Communist Party. The students must not be under 20 or over 30 years of age.

All these schools are under the control of a high Soviet officer, who regularly makes the rounds of the schools.

Main Depot of the National Militia

The large main quartermaster depot of the National Militia is in Sofia on Boulevard Dundukova [sic]. This depot has the task of supplying all necessary goods: food, clothing, etc. The food and other necessary items for the above-mentioned regional sections of the National Militia come from this depot; they are sent to their destinations by truck. The depot has one motor company for transporting supplies.

Armament of the National Militia

The Bulgarian National Militia is well armed, exclusively with new weapons obtained from the Soviet Union. The armament is mainly automatic and easily portable. As has been mentioned above, the militia has units with armored vehicles and equipment for dispersing demonstrators, etc.

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